

Proclamation 6944—National Forest Products Week, 1996

October 21, 1996

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

For much of our Nation's history, forests, like other natural resources, were considered inexhaustible. In this century, we began to recognize that forests are a precious birthright for all Americans—not only for us and for our children, but also for future generations. As part of this recognition, we observe National Forest Products Week.

Forests are an important source of fuel and building materials, and they provide many valuable jobs. They also offer us unmatched recreational environments, as well as a spiritual refuge from city life. They provide essential habitat for myriad species of plants and animals, including hundreds that are endangered or threatened. Increasingly, their trees, shrubs, herbs, fungi, and microorganisms are yielding new and wondrous medicinal products and foods. And thanks to better planning and resource management that replace harvested lands with new forests, thousands of Americans will continue to earn their livelihood from our Nation's forests, even as we protect them. Today, the same citizens who are reaping the forests' bounty are personally and professionally involved in efforts to preserve it for future generations.

Government, citizens, and the forestry industry now work hand-in-hand in a new cooperative stewardship that emphasizes healthy, diverse, and sustainable forests. Using the best available science and complying with all current environmental laws, we are examining past and present forest management practices to find the best mix of resource use, conservation, and recycling that will ensure continued productivity. America must promote environmental responsibility and observe the highest possible standards of conservation to lead the way for other nations.

One of our most important tools in this endeavor is investment in forest research. Forest research is developing new wood products that extend raw material supplies,

new technologies to extract and process wood products with less waste and fewer harmful byproducts, and new ways of reducing demand for forest raw materials through recycling. It is also unlocking the potential of forests to provide new products that will benefit people. With proper care, these lands can remain healthy, diverse, and resilient, capable of sustaining the lives—human and animal—that are dependent on them.

In recognition of the central role forests play in the long-term welfare of our Nation, the Congress, by Public Law 86-753 (36 U.S.C. 163), has designated the week beginning on the third Sunday in October each year as "National Forest Products Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this commemoration.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 20 through October 26, 1996, as National Forest Products Week. I call upon the people of the United States to honor the vital role forests play in our national life and to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-first.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 22, 1996]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 23.

Proclamation 6945—National Consumers Week, 1996

October 21, 1996

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

This year's theme for National Consumers Week is "service signals success." Service is an indispensable element of success over the long term in both business and government:

service that is responsive, convenient, and courteous, service that meets the expectations of consumers and taxpayers. Clever promotions and deceptive pricing may generate short-term profits in business. Promises alone may gain brief support for Government agencies and programs. But American consumers and taxpayers aren't easily deceived. They expect quality service, and those who cannot or do not provide it will ultimately fail.

That is why I added the right to service to the Consumer Bill of Rights. It is why we have made the reinvention of government—requiring more responsiveness and efficiency—a keystone of my Administration. It is why I issued an Executive Order that directed all executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government to embark upon a revolution to change the way they do business and establish and implement customer service standards that match or exceed the best in the private sector. And it is why our policies continue to emphasize the paramount importance of service excellence to the success of our Nation, our economy, and our efforts to compete in the global marketplace.

The goal of service excellence is not easy to attain. Consumers must demand it, and everyone in an organization, be it a business or a government agency, must be committed to it, both in everyday interactions and in longer-term goals. Their ultimate success depends on it.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 20 through October 26, 1996, as National Consumers Week. I call upon government officials, industry leaders, and the people of the United States to recognize the vital relationship between our economy and our citizenry and to support the right of all Americans to excellence in products and services.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the

United States of America the two hundred and twenty-first.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:47 a.m., October 22, 1996]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 23.

Remarks to the United Michigan Clergy in Detroit

October 21, 1996

The President. Thank you very much. Well, the bishop has prayed over us so well, and my longtime friend Reverend Jones, who shares my roots in Arkansas, has spoken with such passion, and you've made Senator Levin more energetic than I ever heard him before. He's on fire. *[Laughter]* And Mayor Archer is on his way to becoming the world's greatest mayor. He did so well, I think I should quit while I'm ahead. He was wonderful.

I want to thank all the religious leaders behind me and all those in front of me. I thank Senator Levin for being here, along with the other Members of Congress who are here: Congressman Conyers, Congressman Dingell, Congressman Levin. I'm not sure if Congressman Bonior is here or not, but if he's not, you pretend like he's here. He's been working for you in Washington overtime. Our nominee for Congress, Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, thank you for being here, Carolyn. Thank you, my good friend Governor Blanchard, for being here.

I want to thank the people who performed before I came out, Witness and the Craig Brothers. And I want to thank the people who did that remarkable and unique job of our national anthem, Mr. Benjamin Pruitt and Sister Nancy Bradley. Thank you. If she had gone up one more "America," I was going to volunteer to withdraw from the campaign and become her agent. *[Laughter]* It was so amazing.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have a wonderful array of people of faith here. We have Christians who are Catholic and Protestant; we have American Jews here; we have American Muslims here. And there is one person I think I know would be here if his health